

## Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 OES-03 PC-01 USIA-06 IO-11 INR-07

DODE-00 AGR-05 INT-05 COME-00 L-03 EUR-12 CIAE-00

IGA-02 EB-07 /128 W

----- 032701

R 161155Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5303

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

RUFHGGTMAMEMBASSY ROME 309

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ROME FOR FODAG

AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY GRAIN SHIPMENTS TO MAURITANIA

REF: STATE 059052, NOUAKCHOTT 0630

1. THIS MESSAGE ADDRESSES TECHNICAL ASPECTS STATE 059052  
POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS COVERED IN NOUAKCHOTT 0630.

2. \$COMMODITY BREAKDOWN. WE ASKED FOR WHEAT AND MILK ONLY  
BECAUSE WE NOTED THAT CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO PROVIDING  
THEM TO WFP. WE HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY KNOWN THAT THEY ARE AVAILABLE  
FOR EMERGENCY PROGRAMS. POPULATION IN SOUTH AND EAST HAS LEARNED  
TO ACCEPT WHEAT AS RESULT DROUGHT FOOD ASSISTANCE AND NOW  
GENERALLY PREFERS IT TO SORGHUM. EITHER WHEAT OR SFSG IS ACCEPTABLE.  
THE MILK IN THE GIRM REQUESTS IS NOT INTENDED FOR ANY MCH  
TYPE PROGRAM BUT FOR GENERAL CONSUMPTION. IT IS A NORMAL PART  
OF THE MAURITANIAN DIET, AND GIRM REQUESTEDBUT AS SUCH.

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3. SALES. WE HAD NEVER INTENDED THAT ANY FOOD BE SOLD. INDEED, ONE

OF REASONS FOR REQUESTING SFSG WAS THAT WE UNDERSTOOD IT  
COULD NOT BE SOLD.

4. TITLE I PROGRAM. IN VIEW PRESENT ECONOMIC SITUATION,  
CONSIDERATION TITLE I PROGRAM SHOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL  
ECONOMIC RECOVERY BEGUN. AS REPORTED NOUAKCHOTT 0441,  
DEFENSE MINISTER SAID GIRM STRAPPED BY UNEXPECTED WAR EXPENSES.

5. TRANSPORT. WE CONTINUE TO POINT OUT TO EVERYONE CONCERNED  
THE NEED FOR ADEQUATE TRANSPORT. DEFENSE MINISTER HAS GIVEN  
VERBAL ASSURANCE THAT HE WILL MAKE NECESSARY TRANSPORTATION  
RESOURCES AVAILABLE. WISH EMPHASIZE THAT EVEN IF SHIPMENTS  
ARRIVE DAKAR IN MAY, IT WILL BE LATE MAY OR JUNE, DEPENDING  
ON DAKAR ARRIVAL DATE, BEFORE FOOD ARRIVES IN ROSSO. THIS  
SEVERELY RESTRICTS TIME FOR TRUCKING BEFORE RAINS.

6. ROSSO FERRY. ONE OF PRESENT ROSSO "FRENCH" FERRIES TO BE  
MOVED TO KAEDI IN NEAR FUTURE. REMAINING 3 FERRIES, IF  
EITHER GERMAN FERRY OR COMBINATION OF UNIFLOAT AND "FRENCH  
FERRY OPERATIONAL, NORMAL TRAFFIC COULD BE HANDLED. ALL  
FERRIES ARE CURRENTLY RECEIVING MAINTENANCE AND THUS LIEKLY  
REMAIN OPERATIONAL DURING PERIOD.

7. HARVEST AND SHORTFALL. BEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION WAS  
GIVEN IN NOUAKCHOTT 0321 AND 0441. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE,  
CURRENT AND PRECISE STATISTICS ARE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN IN  
MAURITANIA. ON IMPORTS, DEFENSE MINISTER PERSONALLY  
TELEPHONED DATA SOURCES TO ASCERTAIN WHAT IF ANYTHING WAS  
BEING PROCURED COMMERCIALY PRIOR TO PROVIDING DATA GIVEN  
NOUAKCHOTT 0441. FIRST HAND LOOK AT SITUATION. WFP END USE  
CHECKER HAS JUST COMPLETED EXAMINATION OF STORAGE FACILITIES  
THROUGHOUT MAURITANIA, EXCLUDING MAURITANIAN-CONTROLLED SAHARA.  
HIS FINDINGS COINCIDE WITH WHAT PREVIOUS AID VISITS FOUND.  
WFP MECHANIC HAS BEEN SPOT-CHECKING TRANSPORT IN VARIOUS  
AREAS. HE REPORTS THAT MOST OPERATION VIVRES VEHICLES CONTINUE BE  
USED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. THOSE OBSERVED WERE IN  
REASONABLE CONDITION, BUT CONDITION THOSE IN SAHARA REMAINS  
UNKNOWN.

8. SELF-HELP. GIRM CONTINUES TO WORK WITH VARIOUS DONORS IN  
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AGRICULTURAL FIELD. IT STILL PLANS TO IMPLEMENT CEREALS OFFICE.  
ALL THESE EFFORTS ARE NATURALLY RESTRICTED BY THE WAR AND LACK  
OF TRAINED MANPOWER. IN EFFECT, MAURITANIA IS OPERATING IN  
CONTEXT OF EMERGENCY SITUATION RESULTING FROM RESIDUAL EFFECTS  
OF DROUGHT, COMPOUNDED BY SAHARAN GUERRILLA WAR.

9. HOPE THIS DATA WILL ASSIST IN IMPLEMENTING POLICY RECOMMENDATION  
CONTINUED NOUAKCHOTT 0630. DECON AFTER 15 MARCH 1978. HANDYSIDE

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## Message Attributes

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